4/28/86 58895-1A

WYOMING

VOL. 23 NO. 4 APR. 1986

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Jan. '86	Feb. '86
Labor Force	244,969	247,121
Employment	219,804	221,582
Unemployment	25,165	25,539
Rate (Raw)	10.3	10.3
Rate (S.A.)	9.0	9.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.57	$14.00
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	45.1	42.3
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.7	7.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.19	$12.29
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.5	43.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	328.4	327.5
Denver (Bimonthly)	364.4	
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.9	+3.2

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATION

In February, the number of unemployed nationwide was up 700,000 from January to 8.5 million. The civilian unemployment rate was up 0.6 percentage point to 7.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, in February. The jobless rate had been improving slowly since the summer of 1985, and the gain in February returned it to the level of the first half of last year. Rates for adult men (6.2 percent) and women (6.7 percent) and full time workers (6.9 percent) were all about half a point higher than the previous month.

IN WYOMING

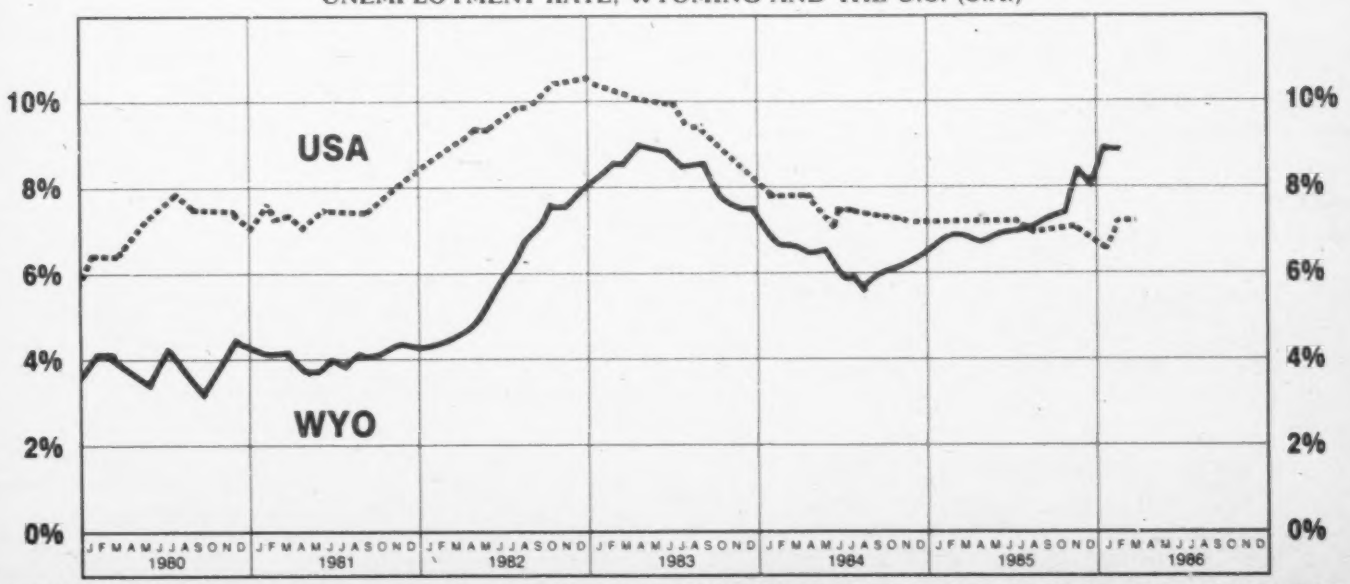
Unemployment in Wyoming continued at 10.3 percent, unadjusted, and 9.0 percent seasonally adjusted in February for the second month in a row - reflecting the continuing large number of unemployment insurance claims.

In January, Wyoming's unemployment rate ranked it sixth highest in the nation. West Virginia had the highest unadjusted rate of 13.4 percent and New Hampshire had the lowest at 3.8 percent.

In February, the 9.0 percent seasonally adjusted rate in Wyoming was well above

Continued on Page 2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In Wyoming—Continued

the U.S. level of 7.3 percent. In 1985, however, Wyoming's annual average rate of 7.1 percent was about the same as the U.S. rate of 7.2 percent.

The statewide labor force stood at 247,100 in February, up over two percent on an annual basis. The employed labor force, however, was about last year's level while the number of unemployed, at 25,500, was up 31 percent annually.

AREA TRENDS

Percentage wise, Sublette County continues to lead in annual labor force gains, followed closely by Lincoln County. Sweetwater County indicated the greatest annual worker gain, over 2,200, followed by Laramie and Lincoln Counties, both up over 1,600. Fremont County indicated the greatest labor force decline, down over 500.

Big Horn County had the highest unemployment rate, 14.7 percent, and Sublette had the lowest rate at 6.7 percent. Of the 23 counties only seven did not have double digit unemployment rates. Natrona County had the most jobseekers, 3,900. For more detail refer to Table 2.

WYOMING THIRD QUARTER WAGES UP 3.8 PERCENT

Recently compiled employer contribution data reflects an annual gain of 3.8 percent in the average weekly wage for the Third Quarter of 1985. The all industry average of $353 a week, about $18,400 a year, included over 16,500 firms employing almost 201,200 workers covered by the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Law. The national inflation rate, consumer price index, was up 3.4 percent annually during the same time frame.

Coal miners were the highest paid of any worker group with an average weekly wage of $810, over $42,100 a year!

WYOMING #2 IN PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTIONS

According to information from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Wyoming ranked second in per capita total taxes for fiscal year 1985. A total of $1,584.31 is collected for each person in the state which compares to the $902.40 average for all states.

Per capita rankings for the Cowboy State by selected taxes include: first in motor vehicle licenses, seventh in death and gift tax, 13th in general sales tax and 16th in motor fuel tax.

For fiscal year 1985, Wyoming ranked 44th in the nation in total tax collections with $806,416,000, a 0.6 percent increase over 1984.

HOW MUCH IS OUR DOLLAR REALLY WORTH?

Official data provided by the federal government suggest that between 1967 and 1985 the value of a dollar has dropped by 68.9 percent. In other words, the dollar of 1967 is only worth 31.1 cents, by the government's account. Or saying it another way, the government is telling us that things cost about three times as much as they did in 1967. But do they?

Financial Seeurity Alert, a financial publication headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, recently conducted a survey of 16 of the most common items that people buy. What they learned was a little shocking. (See the table below.)

The 16 items surveyed cost not **three** times more, but averaged **4.2 times** more expensive than in 1967. Housing expenses are nearly six times higher than they were 18 years ago.

According to the publication, our dollar is really only worth about **24 cents,** not the 31 cents claimed by Uncle Sam. Incidentally, most of the 1967 prices were based on data provided by the feds.

So, if *Financial Security Alert* is correct, our dollars will only purchase about 24 percent as much of the items listed, compared to what they would buy back in 1967. It makes one wonder who's correct.

HOW YOUR PURCHASING POWER HAS DECLINED:

	1967 Price	1985 Price	# Times 1967 Price
Monthly Housing Expense	$ 114.31	$ 678.40	5.9
Monthly Automobile Expense	$ 82.69	$ 369.82	4.5
Loaf of Bread	$ .22	$ .99	4.5
Gallon of Milk	$ 1.15	$ 2.02	1.8
Sugar - 5 lb. bag	$ .10	$ .32	3.2
Pound of Hamburger	$ .39	$ 1.25	3.2
Coffee - 2 lbs.	$ .49	$ 2.59	5.3
Candy Bar	$ .10	$ .35	3.5
6 Oz. Frozen Orange Juice	$ .11	$ .39	3.5
Steak	$ .98	$ 2.49	2.5
Natural Gas	$ 153.00	$ 770.00	5.0
Gasoline (per gallon)	$ .23	$ 1.21	5.4
Electricity	$ 128.02	$ 430.00	3.4
Men's Dress Shirt	$ 5.00	$ 28.00	5.6
Postage	$ 0.5	$ .22	4.4
Resident College Tuition	$ 294.00	$1,581.00	5.4

1985 Prices Are An Average of 4.2 Times As High As 1967 Prices.

Basic Data: Departments of Commerce, Labor, Energy, and others
Reproduced From: Financial Security Alert, Inc., 1986

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS – ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT REVISIONS

That time of the year has come again when we can say, with relief, that the "Benchmark" is complete. To those who produce the Non-farm Wage and Salary Employment reports, this means we have finished the lengthy process to review, compare, and analyze the 1984 and 1985 employment estimates. For those reading this article, it means new and more accurate employment figures are available.

Our Current Employment Statistics program collects data on a monthly basis from a sample of Wyoming employers, and esti-

mates employment by industry based on this sample. At benchmark time, estimates for the past two years are replaced by actual employment counts taken mostly from employer unemployment insurance tax reports.

The benchmark is done on an annual basis. In February 1986, we completed the March 1985 benchmark — all data through March 1985 are now final. We have "actual count" data for all of 1984 and the first three months of 1985. Likewise, one year from now we will revise 1985 for a second time. This will include "actual count" data for the entire year and for the first three months of 1986.

This year's benchmark applied an upward revision of 3.4% to our original 1985 estimates for total wage and salary employment. This revision increased the employment from an annual average of 198,200 to 204,900.

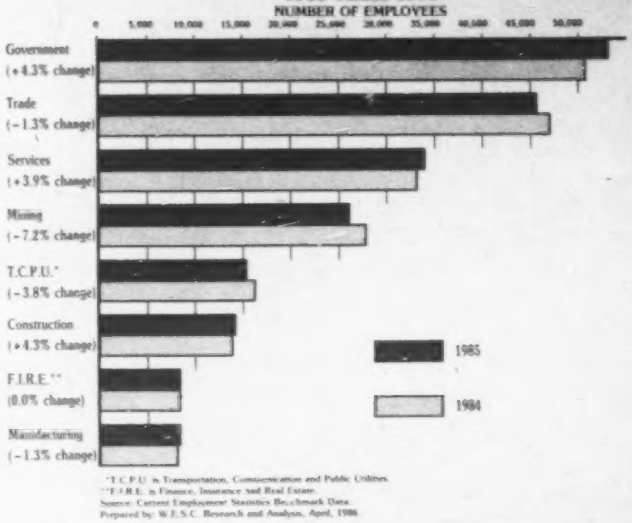
Most of the larger industries in Wyoming had even smaller revisions than the total. Only trade, with an upward revision of 6%, was larger. Services, a more stable industry, was revised upward by 1.1% while Total Government had a 2.9% upward revision. Mining, the state's most public industry in recent years, tracked very well with only a 0.4% downward revision.

The smaller industries also tracked fairly well. A notable exception was the 36.1% upward revision of the extremely volatile Construction industry. Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities had a downward revision of 3.2% while Manufacturing was revised downward by 4.8%. The smallest revision came to Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, requiring an increase of only 0.3%.

With all of this, we can more accurately state that Wyoming's employment level has experienced only a slight increase from year-to-year. The benchmarked estimates for 1984 and 1985 show us that the annual average employment rose from 204,300 in 1984 to 204,900 in 1985, a mere 0.3%. At the industry level, however, only three showed an increase from year-to-year — Construction (+4.3%), Government (+4.3%), and Services (+3.9%).

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate remained the same from year-to-year while the remaining industries experienced a loss in employment. Not surprisingly, Wyoming's ailing Mining industry suffered the most with a stinging loss of 2,000 jobs (−7.2%). Other industries with a decrease over-the-year were Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities (−3.8%), Manufacturing (−1.3%) and Trade (−1.3%).

Wyoming's Annual Average Employment by Industry
1985 Versus 1984



*T.C.P.U. is Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities.
**F.I.R.E. is Finance, Insurance and Real Estate.
Source: Current Employment Statistics Benchmark Data.
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, April, 1986

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISON — FOURTH QUARTER 1985

	ALL ITEMS	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSPORTATION	HEALTH CARE	MISC
Component Index Weight	100	17	22	11	13	7	30
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities							
Casper	98.8	97.1	88.6	93.6	97.0	113.6	106.5
Evanston	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Neighboring Cities							
Billings, MT	106.1	106.8	119.2	81.2	99.6	116.9	105.5
Denver, CO	108.9	110.3	134.5	73.9	112.9	107.3	100.9
Omaha, NE	92.4	92.7	89.6	84.9	94.6	88.4	96.9
Rapid City, SD	93.4	105.4	82.3	77.2	94.0	115.4	95.2
Salt Lake City, UT	101.2	103.0	97.4	92.9	102.3	92.1	107.7
Twin Falls, ID	91.0	88.4	93.5	63.4	97.1	102.2	95.6
Highest U.S. City	142.5 New York NY	147.9 St. Thomas VI	190.7 New York NY	195.7 New York NY	144.0 Washington DC	180.1 Tacoma WA	130.2 Anchorage AK
Lowest U.S. City	86.7 McMinnville TN	85.8 Columbia SC	73.1 Cannon IA	51.7 Seattle WA	78.7 Youngstown OH	67.4 Colleville TN	89.6 Colleville TN

* Source: American Chamber of Commerce Research Association
**Data unavailable for Fourth Quarter 1985

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGES	HOUSING	ENTERTAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
February 1986	327.5	307.7	356.5	272.0	204.1	319.2	422.3
Annual % Change	3.2	2.1	3.8	4.1	1.1	1.6	7.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	FEB 1986 [1]	JAN 1986 [1]	FEB 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	247,121	244,969	241,862	0.9	2.2
Unemployment	25,539	25,165	19,496	1.5	31.0
Employed Labor Force	221,582	219,804	222,366	0.8	- 0.4
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	182,500	181,400	181,951	0.6	0.3
b. Agriculture[3]	7,409	6,174	7,684	20.0	- 3.6
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	10.3% 9.0%*	10.3% 9.0%*	8.1% 7.0%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.8% 7.3%*	7.3% 6.7%*	7.8% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	4.5%	3.9%	3.3%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 592.20	$ 612.01	$ 555.39	- 3.2	6.6
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	45.1	40.1	- 6.2	5.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.00	$ 13.57	$ 13.85	3.2	1.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	37,607	37,619	32,296	0.0	16.4
a. Initial	4,831	5,816	3,914	- 16.9	23.4
Weeks Compensated	30,004	29,228	26,145	2.7	14.8
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 4,723,686	$ 4,601,047	$ 3,877,059	2.7	21.8
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 157.14	$ 157.12	$ 147.29	0.0	6.7
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,145	5,827	3,072	- 28.9	34.9
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,118	2,721	1,911	- 22.2	10.8
Non-Ag. Placements	1,918	2,519	1,829	- 23.9	4.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 528.47	$ 542.46	$ 514.08	- 2.6	2.8
Average Weekly Hours	43.0	44.5	43.2	- 3.4	- 0.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.29	$ 12.19	$ 11.90	0.8	3.3
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	327.5	328.4	317.4	- 0.3	3.2
Producer Prices, All Commodities	304.7	309.0	309.1	- 1.4	- 1.4
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	315.3	315.6	309.5	- 0.1	1.9

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	FEB 1986	JAN 1986	FEB 1985	%CHANGE JAN-FEB	%CHANGE FEB-FEB	FEB 1986	JAN 1986	FEB 1985	FEB 1986	JAN 1986	FEB 1985
Statewide	247,121	244,969	241,862	0.9	2.2	25,539	25,165	19,496	10.3	10.3	8.1
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.0	9.0	7.0
Albany	15,696	15,694	15,523	0.0	1.1	1,166	1,237	819	7.4	7.9	5.3
Big Horn	4,440	4,327	4,714	2.6	- 5.8	653	551	504	14.7	12.7	10.7
Campbell	19,710	19,140	18,740	3.0	5.2	1,864	1,581	1,346	9.5	8.3	7.2
Carbon	8,260	8,237	8,634	0.3	- 4.3	1,054	1,130	835	12.8	13.7	9.7
Converse	6,401	6,390	6,462	0.2	- 0.9	810	855	613	12.6	13.4	9.5
Crook	2,767	2,663	2,741	3.9	0.9	310	277	190	11.2	10.4	6.9
Fremont	16,338	16,426	16,863	- 0.5	- 3.1	2,250	2,448	1,906	13.8	14.9	11.3
Goshen	5,516	5,508	5,773	0.1	- 4.5	575	449	458	10.4	8.2	7.9
Hot Springs	2,793	2,676	3,017	4.4	- 7.4	260	214	219	9.3	8.0	7.3
Johnson	3,190	3,137	3,395	1.7	- 6.0	405	358	259	12.7	11.4	7.6
Laramie	35,050	34,949	33,434	0.3	4.8	2,776	2,932	2,240	7.9	8.4	6.7
Lincoln	8,710	8,525	7,071	2.2	23.2	885	887	716	10.2	10.4	10.1
Natrona	36,040	35,697	36,477	1.0	- 1.2	3,912	3,863	2,930	10.9	10.8	8.0
Niobrara	1,567	1,496	1,654	4.7	- 5.3	217	201	203	13.9	13.4	12.3
Park	12,826	12,660	12,398	1.3	3.5	1,327	1,266	1,034	10.3	10.0	8.3
Platte	3,632	3,485	3,652	4.2	- 0.5	482	467	310	13.3	13.4	8.5
Sheridan	12,614	12,576	12,989	0.3	- 2.9	1,348	1,394	1,284	10.7	11.1	9.9
Sublette	3,384	3,389	2,617	- 0.1	29.3	227	281	156	6.7	8.3	6.0
Sweetwater	21,552	21,551	19,331	0.0	11.5	2,048	2,096	1,413	9.5	9.7	7.3
Teton	7,330	7,314	7,128	0.2	2.8	605	653	502	8.2	8.9	7.0
Uinta	11,313	11,270	10,837	0.4	4.4	1,414	1,264	893	12.5	11.2	8.2
Washakie	4,757	4,731	4,807	0.5	- 1.0	587	453	388	12.3	9.6	8.1
Weston	3,234	3,128	3,605	3.4	- 10.3	366	307	277	11.3	9.8	7.7
United States									7.8	7.3	7.8
United States - Seasonally adjusted									7.3	6.7	7.3

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	FEB 1986[2]	JAN 1986[3]	FEB 1985	JAN 1986	FEB 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1986	to FEB 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	194.8	196.2	194.5	- 0.7	0.2
Manufacturing	7.3	7.8	7.4	- 6.4	- 1.4
Durable Goods	3.4	3.5	3.5	- 2.9	- 2.9
Nondurable Goods	4.0	4.3	3.8	- 7.0	5.3
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	- 10.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	187.5	188.5	187.1	- 0.5	0.2
Mining	24.7	25.8	25.5	- 4.3	- 3.1
Contract Construction	10.5	10.4	11.2	1.0	- 6.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	15.0	15.1	14.9	- 0.7	0.7
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	2.5	0.0	20.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.6	5.6	5.8	0.0	- 3.4
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.4	6.5	6.7	- 1.5	- 4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.0	43.3	44.5	- 0.7	- 3.4
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.3	9.3	- 1.1	- 1.1
Retail Trade	33.8	34.0	35.1	- 0.6	- 3.7
Food Stores	4.9	5.1	5.2	- 3.9	- 5.8
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.9	6.1	5.8	- 3.3	1.7
Eating & Drinking Places	11.6	11.3	12.5	2.7	- 7.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	8.0	0.0	- 1.3
Services	32.8	33.0	30.9	- 0.6	6.1
Personal Services	2.0	2.1	1.9	- 4.8	5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.6	6.6	6.1	0.0	8.2
Government	53.6	53.0	52.1	1.1	2.9
Federal Government	7.2	7.2	6.8	0.0	5.9
State & Local Government	46.4	45.8	45.4	1.3	2.2
State Government	13.7	13.6	13.1	0.7	4.6
Local Government	32.7	32.2	32.3	1.6	1.2

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	FEB 1986[2]	JAN 1986[3]	FEB 1985	JAN 1986	FEB 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1986	to FEB 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.2	31.3	32.4	- 0.3	- 3.7
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.8	30.0	31.1	- 0.7	- 4.2
Mining	4.2	4.4	4.6	- 4.5	- 8.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.0	4.1	4.2	- 2.4	- 4.8
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	- 25.0
Contract Construction	1.7	1.6	1.5	6.3	13.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	- 4.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.0	9.0	9.5	0.0	- 5.3
Wholesale Trade	3.1	3.1	3.4	0.0	- 8.8
Retail Trade	5.9	5.9	6.2	0.0	- 4.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	- 11.8
Services	5.4	5.5	5.6	- 1.8	- 3.6
Government	6.0	6.0	6.1	0.0	- 1.6
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	- 1.9
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.8	29.9	29.1	- 0.3	2.4
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.7	28.8	28.0	- 0.3	2.5
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.2	0.0	6.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.5	6.5	6.9	0.0	- 5.8
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	6.1	0.0	- 4.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.2	5.3	4.8	- 1.9	8.3
Government	10.4	10.4	10.0	0.0	4.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.6	2.4	3.8	12.5
State & Local Government	7.8	7.7	7.6	1.3	2.6

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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